



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/912,696	07/24/2001	Christian C. Landry	COMP:0244 P01-3660	6978
7590	04/04/2003			
Robert A. Van Someren Fletcher, Yoder & Van Someren P.O. Box 692289 Houston, TX 77269-2289			EXAMINER VORTMAN, ANATOLY	
		ART UNIT 2835	PAPER NUMBER	
		DATE MAILED: 04/04/2003		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Offic Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/912,696	LANDRY ET AL.
	Examiner Anatoly Vortman	Art Unit 2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 February 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 1-59 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-59 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 24 July 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>6.7</u> .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Amendments

1. By amendment filed on 02/19/03 (paper # 8) the Applicant has amended claims 1, 15-18, 20, 27, 28, 32-34, 37-41, 43-47, 51, and 53-56. Claims 1-59 are pending in the instant application.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the horizontal mount structure recited in claim 12, an angular lock assembly recited in claim 13, and “the body with at least two different sized footprints” recited in claim 34 must be shown. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claim recites “the body with at least two different sized footprints”. The specification does not support the aforementioned limitations.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-7, 11-17, 20-24, 27-33, 35-47, 49-56, 58, and 59, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US/6,430,038 to Helot et al. (Helot).

Regarding claim 1, Helot disclosed (Fig. 1-3) a computer system (20) comprising: a component housing comprising: a first section (22); and a second section (42) rotatably coupled to the first section (22); a third section (54, 56) rotatably coupled to the second section (42); and a display (28) rotatably coupled to the component housing.

Regarding claim 20, Helot disclosed a space saving system (Fig. 1-3) for a computing device, comprising: a display (28); a housing comprising at least a portion (42) rotatable to an upright orientation; and an intermediate member (54, 56) rotatably coupled to the display (28) at a first end and rotatably coupled to the at least portion (42) at a second end.

Regarding claim 32, Helot disclosed a computer structure (Fig. 1-3), comprising: a body comprising at least four rotatably coupled sections (22, 42, 54, 56, 28) configured for geometrical adaptation to a desired environment, wherein the at least four of rotatably coupled sections (22, 42, 54, 56, 28) comprise at least two component housing sections (22, 42) configured to support computing components and at least one display housing configured to support a display (28).

Regarding claims 2 and 22, Helot disclosed that component housing comprises a flat panel housing (panel housing sections 22, 42, and 28).

Regarding claim 33, Helot disclosed that the at least two component housing sections (22, 42) are coupled at a pivot joint (27) and rotatably movable between an L-shaped configuration (Fig. 1) and a substantially flat configuration (Fig. 2).

Regarding claims 3-6, 23, and 24, Helot disclosed that said component housing is for a computer (column 1, lines 37+), therefore it inherently comprises a computing circuitry comprising: a processor, a memory, and a mobile power supply.

Regarding claim 7, Helot disclosed that the component housing comprises an input device (21).

Regarding claims 11 and 12, Helot disclosed a support structure (46) including a horizontal mount structure for supporting an angular orientation of the second section (42) relative to the first section (22).

Regarding claim 13, Helot disclosed an angular lock assembly (Fig. 11, elements (80, 86)) for securing the component housing at a desired relative angle between the sections.

Regarding claims 14, 15, 16, and 21, Helot disclosed that the display (28) comprises a panel display assembly (30) and a connector arm (54, 56) having first and second pivot joints (47, 57) rotatably coupling the display (28) and the component housing.

Regarding claim 17, Helot disclosed that the connector arm (54, 56) comprises a releasable display mount (47).

Regarding claim 27, Helot disclosed that the intermediate member (54, 56) comprises a connector arm having a first end rotatably coupled to the housing (42) and a second end rotatably coupled to the display (28) at an offset distance from the housing (42).

Regarding claim 28, Helot disclosed a releasable display mount (47) disposed at one of the first and second ends.

Regarding claim 29, Helot disclosed a support structure (46) for supporting at least the portion (42) of the housing in the upright orientation.

Regarding claims 30, 31, and 35, Helot disclosed that the housing comprises rotatably coupled sections (22, 28, 54, 56, 42) configured for plurality of angular orientations and geometrical configurations, including a base section (22) and a rotatable section (42).

Regarding claims 36 and 37, Helot disclosed that the plurality of geometrical configurations includes a folded configuration (Fig. 2) with flat arrangement of the rotatably coupled sections (22, 42) and a zigzagging configuration, (Fig. 1).

Regarding claims 38, 39 and 40, Helot disclosed that at least four rotatably coupled sections (22, 28, 54, 56, 42) comprise an intermediate member (connector arms) (54, 56) disposed between the at least one display housing (28) and one of the at least two component housing sections (42, 22), the plurality of geometrical configurations comprising a working

configuration (Fig. 1) having the at least one display housing (28) positioned at a desired viewing orientation for the display and having the at least two component housing sections (22, 42) positioned at a desired orientation for mounting on a surface.

Regarding claims 41, Helot disclosed a releasable display coupling (47) disposed at one of first and second ends of the intermediate member (54, 56).

Regarding claim 42, Helot disclosed that at least a portion of the computer components integrally coupled (inherently) within the plurality of rotatably coupled housing sections (22, 42, 54, 56), wherein the computer components comprise a display (28) and a processor (inherently, since the device is a computer), and the display (28) includes a panel display screen (30).

Regarding claims 43-47, 49-56, 58, and 59, the method steps recited in the claims, are inherently necessitated by the device structure as disclosed by Helot.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 8-10, 18, 25, 26, and 57, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helot in view of US/6,006,243 to Karidis.

Regarding claims 8-10, 25, and 26, Helot disclosed all of the claims limitations as apply to claims 7, 20, and 23, but did not disclose removable wireless input devices.

Karidis disclosed a computer system (Fig. 1, 2) comprising a wireless communication system represented by a removable wireless keyboard and a pointing device (column 3, lines 31-40).

Since inventions of Helot and Karidis are from the same field of endeavor (portable computers), the purpose of wireless removable input devices disclosed by Karidis would be recognized in the invention of Helot.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in computer art at the time the invention was made to modify said computer of Helot by providing it with removable wireless input devices as taught by Karidis in order to provide additional user functionality and flexibility (Karidis, column 2, lines 44, 45).

Regarding claim 57, the method steps recited in the claim are inherently necessitated by the device structure as disclosed by Helot in view of Karidis.

Regarding claim 18, Helot disclosed all of the claim limitations as apply to claim 17, but did not disclose that the connector arm has a hot-plugable electrical coupling mechanism for removably coupling the display to the component housing .

Karidis disclosed (Fig. 4) such hot-plugable electrical coupling mechanism (82, 84) for removably coupling the display (72) to the housing (74).

Since inventions of Helot and Karidis are from the same field of endeavor (portable computers), the purpose of the hot-plugable electrical coupling disclosed by Karidis would be recognized in the invention of Helot.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in computer art at the time the invention was made to modify the computer of Helot by providing the intermediate members

(arms) with the hot-plugable electrical coupling mechanism for removably coupling the display to the component housing as taught by Karidis in order to provide additional user functionality and flexibility (Karidis, column 2, lines 44, 45).

9. Claims 19 and 48, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Helot in view of US/5,260,884 to Stern.

Regarding claim 19, Helot disclosed all of the claim limitations as applied to claim 1, but did not disclose a handle assembly coupled to the component housing.

Stern disclosed (Fig. 1) a portable computer system having a component housing (14) with an integral handle (11) attached thereon.

Since the inventions of Helot and Stern are from the same field of endeavor (portable computers), the purpose of the handle disclosed by Stern would be recognized in the invention of Helot.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the computer art at the time the invention was made to provide the component housing of Helot with the integrally formed handle as taught by Stern, in order to facilitate carrying of the device.

Regarding claim 48, the method steps recited in the claim, are inherently necessitated by the device structure as disclosed by Helot in view of Stern.

Response to Arguments

Art Unit: 2835

10. Applicant's arguments regarding the rejection of the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant's arguments regarding the objection to the drawings are not persuasive, since neither specification nor the drawings provide for reference numbers for specific structural elements, which have been mentioned in the objection.

Conclusion

11. The Examiner would like direct the Applicant's attention to the fact that US/6,076,786 and WO/ 98/45,769 submitted with IDS (paper # 6) also would have been sufficient to reject under 35 USC § 102 at least independent claims 1, 20, 32, 43, and 51.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2835

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anatoly Vortman whose telephone number is 703-308-7824.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00, Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Darren Schuberg can be reached on 703-308-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3431 for regular communications and 703-305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

Anatoly Vortman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2835

A.V.
March 20, 2003

